

... Polish Vote Held as Club Over FDR

Anti-USSR Feeling Used in Effort to Bring Workers Into Line

By JACK SHAFER

Reactionary Polish-American leaders are attempting to inject the Polish-Soviet controversy into U. S. politics. The aim is to get the U. S. A. to split with the USSR and plug for a greater Poland after the war; the method is political blackmail.

Through the press and pamphlets the Administration has been informed that if it doesn't take the side of Poland against the Soviet Union, anywhere from 5,500,000 to 10,000,000 votes will be swung against FDR.

The attack on the Administration is spearheaded by such papers as *Nowy Swiat*, New York daily, whose editor, Maximilian Wegrzyn, is pro-Dewey; the *Detroit Daily, Dziennik Polski*, whose editor, Frank Junczewski, is a member of the State Committee of the GOP in Michigan and a Vandenberg supporter, and others.

Member of 'Colonels'

The most bitter attacks against the Administration are written in *Nowy Swiat* by Col. Ignace Matuszewski, the outstanding Polish nationalist in the U. S. A. and a member of the "Colonels' Clique" formed in Poland after the death of Marshal Pilsudski. Commander-in-Chief of the Polish armies and Underground Gen. Sosulowski is a member of the same clique.

Matuszewski, who is not an American citizen and who is here on a limitless furlough granted by the Polish War Minister in 1940, has been charged by the Chicago daily *Dziennik Zwiazkowy* with trying to destroy the confidence of American Poles in FDR. He is the same Matuszewski of whom, the

late Polish Premier Gen. Sikorski said in December, 1942, that he deserved the Iron Cross from Hitler. Matuszewski's weapon is fear of the Soviet Union. In a pamphlet called *What Poland Wants* which was distributed among Polish-American workers, most of whom are employed in defense plants, he plays upon these fears, lumps Russia together with Germany, and denounces the attitude of Poland's allies (the USSR, of course is not considered an ally) which he says leaves Poland at the mercy of Russia. This pamphlet, incidentally, which sold for 25 cents, has had wide distribution. Up to December 1942, it had four printings.

This anti-Soviet line is the same that is thundered with almost monotonous regularity by most of the Polish press and in the beautiful pamphlets published by the Polish Information Center, the propaganda organ of the Government-in-Exile.

The line taken by the Polish reactionary press here is best illustrated perhaps by this excerpt from the Milwaukee daily *Nowiny Polskie* of Mar. 25, 1944, which had this to say in commenting on FDR's statement early this year of the necessity of saving as many as possible of Europe's persecuted minorities from Hitler:

"In order to realize this principle, the United States will have to fight Soviet Russia once Germany and Japan have been defeated."

Dangerous Turn

Recently, however, this propaganda has taken a more dangerous turn. Matuszewski who is here by the grace and good will of the U. S. people has not hesitated to take advantage of this good will in an effort to attack the war effort in this country.

Here is a sample from a series of seven articles published by Matuszewski in *Nowy Swiat* under

the title "Your Sweat".

"All American gramophones and political graphomanes are playing an identical tune: 'After the war Russia will be the greatest world power.'

"Maybe, if you will make her so. You Americans.

"Is Russia winning? Yes—thanks to Polish blood, English stout heart and your sweat.

"Recently there appeared a book: *Weapon for Victory* by E. R. Stettinius, Jr. Mr. Stettinius was administrator of Lend Lease. It is worth while to examine the facts contained therein. This book explains how the fruit of your sweat has been used. It represents a statement which explains how a great part of taxes has been used up, taxes which you pay, efforts which you make, debts which will burden the future of your children.

'Weapon for Defeat'

"Each sword cuts two ways—and it looks as if it were high time to begin to think whether 'Weapon for Victory' is not changing into a 'Weapon for Defeat'.

"... Russia owes her salvation to American aid. This American aid, however, was only possible thanks to Poland, thanks to Polish policy represented by Minister Beck, thanks to Polish blood, spilled by the millions. Time will show whether this policy has been right—whether this blood has not been spilled in vain."

After recounting in detail the help given the USSR by the U. S. A., and declaring that it is very questionable whether Mr. Roosevelt's decision of Mar. 17, 1942 to concentrate on the defeat of Germany was wise, Matuszewski says in the sixth article on Feb. 19:

"American Polonia represents approximately 4 per cent of the United States population. That means that in November of last year American Polonia has con-

Our Watch Tower...

U. S. Poles Unite For Protest

But since the existence of Poland as a sovereign state has become threatened, these fraternalists have gotten together. They intend to present a common front by reminding the administration that by the terms of the Atlantic Charter, the weak are protected from the greed of the strong.

The Americans of Polish descent will be supported by descendants of citizens of other European countries whose sovereignty is now threatened. There is no question that their rising voices will have an effect on America's foreign policy.

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tributed daily with its work, and its sweat in order to help Russia over \$440,000. The maintenance of a Russian soldier likely does not cost over \$1 daily, and is more likely to be less. Therefore it can be concluded that American Polonia fed almost a half-million Soviet soldiers. This may be the very army which has gone to the borders of Poland... not to liberate Poland, but to enslave it."

Showdown Danger

Imagine what the consequences would be if such propaganda were effective. Most of the Polish workers in this country are employed in war plants. Many of them are anti-Soviet. If these Poles were sufficiently aroused by the thought of forging a "weapon for defeat" to slowdown production the war effort would be badly hit.

On Mar. 16, 1944, the issue of U. S. help came up in the Milwaukee daily *Nowiny Polskie* which commented on the Soviet-Polish question thus:

"Stalin must be met with a different sort of threat: a stoppage of war supplies to Russia and in addition perhaps the threat that force will be used against him."

The difference between the majority of the Polish-American press and papers like *Nowy Swiat* has not hesitated to use this propaganda against the Administration.

On Feb. 24, 1944, *Nowy Swiat* published a letter ostensibly from a former Roosevelt supporter who said Poland's "so-called protectors" had stood by while Stalin did what he wanted. The letter added:

"It would be a mistake to support the Administration now. They may be our friends, but very cool ones. They are indifferent to what will happen to Poland. What we need now is a new administration."

Nowy Swiat's publisher, Mr. Wegrzyn could have a double interest in seeing the administration defeated. Being a Dewey supporter he can look forward to a lucrative patronage if Dewey wins.

Eye for Contracts

Before the war Wegrzyn had a monopoly on the importation of Polish ham. Victory for the Polish Government-in-exile might mean restoration of the ham monopoly.

The *Nowy Swiat* publisher heads the National Committee of Americans of Polish Descent, known as KNAFF, which is composed of 862 Pilsudskists, careerists and businessmen also looking for lush contracts with postwar Poland.

Recently at a KNAFF inspired congress of Polish organizations of the East a resolution was passed directed to the President of the Polish Government-in-exile. The resolution published in *Nowy Swiat* of Mar. 17 said:

"We are conscious of our duties

as citizens of the great American democracy and as descendants of Poland; we will fight for the realization of the Atlantic Charter and the reconstitution of an independent Polish State which will compromise all of Poland's territory."

A greeting was sent to this congress by Wegrzyn's candidate, Thomas E. Dewey.

Something much more concrete, however, has since appeared on the Polish-American horizon to implement the propaganda for an administration that would side with the Poland exile government against the Soviet Union.

Poland's Plight

Early this year leaders of the Polish-American Congress, the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union, the Polish Falcons, Polish Union in America, Polish Women's Alliance and other groups called a convention to "discuss, as Americans, the plight of Poland."

Although the KNAFF organization did not participate in issuing the call, Wegrzyn, its head, was named to the committee which made the arrangements. As a matter of fact, some Polish circles say it was solely through Wegrzyn's influence that it was decided to hold the convention in Buffalo on May 28, 29 and 30. According to these circles, Wegrzyn's object was to have Dewey address or send a greeting to the delegates.

The aims of the convention are defined in the March, 1944, issue of the Pulaski Foundation Bulletin:

Political Touch

"The principal objective of the Buffalo convention will be to defend America's pledges as embodied in the Atlantic Charter and to defend the sovereignty of Poland (described as the first of the United Nations) because she was the first country in the group to suffer from the greedy and aggressive totalitarian states..."

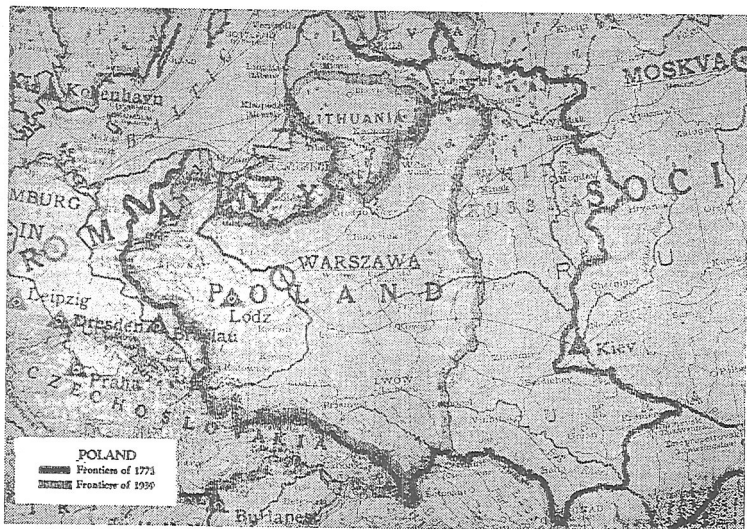
"The Poles do not want to mix national with international politics, hence their slogan that they wish to defend America's pledge given in the Atlantic Charter."

"The fact that the convention has been called for the middle of May gives a certain political touch."

"It is being held a few weeks before the Republican and Democratic conventions in Chicago. The fact that there are some 5,500,000 Polish votes in this country is certain to be taken into consideration by both parties. The Polish vote is large in some of the most important States such as Illinois, Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Ohio."

"Politically they have been divided in the past, and the relations between the various clubs and fra-

MORE



This map appears in the pamphlet *The Truth About Poland*, which is published by the Polish Information Center. There is no explanation for the delineation of the 1773 borders of Poland. The USSR, however, has frequently accused the Polish Government-in-exile of aspiring to go far beyond the 1939 borders. The borders drawn here cut deep into prewar Soviet territory. Could this be a sample of what the exiled Polish Government calls "The Truth About Poland?"

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CONTINUED

Polish Vote Is Held as Club

temities were not always too cordial.

"But since the existence of Poland as a sovereign state has become threatened, these fraternities have gotten together. They intend to present a common front by reminding the administration that by the terms of the Atlantic Charter, the weak are protected from the greed of the strong.

"No such pressure can be exercised on Prime Minister Churchill. Whatever Poles there are in Britain and in the British Empire are citizens of Poland. These are principally soldiers and aviators. There are at least two Polish divisions now fighting the Germans on the Italian front and more are likely to be sent. Polish aviators have done an excellent job in England and other parts of the empire.

"These are moral considerations which Mr. Churchill is keeping in mind and can be overlooked when the questions of important reasons of state confront him. It is doubtful whether the British electorate would rise against a government which would close its eyes at the disappearance of Poland as a sovereign state if it is told that war exigencies must be placed ahead of political pledges.

It Can Happen Here

"The situation is different in the United States. People in this country have taken the articles of the Atlantic Charter to mean that the defeat of the Axis would mean international justice to all concerned. This country believes that, despite its loopholes, the Charter, if sincerely applied to Europe at least might avoid another world war.

"The Americans of Polish descent will be supported by descendants of citizens of other European countries whose sovereignty is now threatened. There is no question that their rising voices

will have an effect on America's foreign policy.

The threat of the "rising voices" has a hollow ring.

It is significant that at up to the present there has been no reflection in the Polish American press of rank and file support of the convention. The only declarations published have come from top officials. Labor and democratic and progressive groups will not participate. Even the membership of the Alliance will not take part.

They'll Take FDR

The reason is simple. Rank and file Poles are working men and women and most of them belong to unions. They still remember that it was under the New Deal of FDR that organized labor thrived and was able to improve their economic position. Whatever they may think of the Soviet Union, if it comes down to a question of FDR vs. the Polish government-in-exile the Polish workers will take FDR any day.

This was clearly illustrated during the Chicago primaries when the solid Polish wards went overwhelmingly for New Deal candidates.

In addition, the aims of the convention are being actively fought by such organizations as the American Polish Labor Council headed by Leo Krzycki, CIO Vice-President, and the Kosciuszko League headed by Rev. Stanislaus Orlemanski. Incidentally, the Labor Council claims to have most of the members of the Polish National Alliance.

But despite this impressive pro-Roosevelt array, the facts are that the propaganda has influenced a minority of Polish Americans and there is always the danger that more will be influenced. Polish circles here have their friends, too, among isolationists and in anti-USSR circles among other national groups.

WEEK OF WAR

AIR WAR

Attack Enters Fourth Week

The air war against the Nazi invasion defenses swept into its fourth week of consecutive day and night assaults, but its pace was reduced by bad weather.

Several days of storms and heavy, cold weather interfered with what had been almost constant raids in strength against railways and airdromes in France, Belgium and eastern Germany.

This wave of attacks was declared by a British Ministry of Economic Warfare spokesman to have crippled the Nazi system of rail transport serving the Channel defenses. At one time, he said, no major marshaling yard in the area covered was able to assemble trains.

Neutral observers said the attacks had brought about a 50 per cent immobilization of German military forces. Persons reaching Spain from France said three important rail centers were virtually isolated for five days.

These persons quoted the Germans as saying they were having the greatest difficulties in making repairs before the raids were repeated at such short intervals.

The RAF which for three years has been hammering at key points of German industry threw its big night bombers into operations in the invasion area.

The German response was prompt and sharp. The RAF raided three military targets in France and lost 49 bombers on Wednesday night. It was the heaviest loss ever suffered in a bombing of objectives in France.

Nevertheless U. S. and Allied aircrews who continued the daylight assaults on succeeding days reported Nazi fighter resistance either lacking or light.

The Italy-based air war against Nazi strongholds, transportation and industrial centers in Balkan countries continued with increasing fury.

FAR EAST

Japs Rally for D-Day in China

With Allied forces striking powerful blows which promised to shatter the Pacific walls of Japan's outer fortress, the Nipponese High Command pressed its offensive in China this week in an attempt to strengthen and solidify its inner bastion against D-Day in the Far East.

Mounting a drive in great strength, the enemy drove north and south along the strategically important Peiping-Hankow Railroad and seized over 120 miles of the 180-mile section.

Military observers in Chungking admitted the remaining gap soon would fall into Jap hands, thus bringing to a close the first phase of the Honan campaign.

Capture of the rail line would realize the enemy's dream of interior communications between his central and northern China forces and pave the way for the second phase of the offensive already begun in the hill regions of western Honan.

Three Japanese columns have



reached the outskirts of Loyang, Chinese operational base in Honan Province, but despite fierce resistance, fall of the town was conceded to be merely a matter of time.

With the wedge between their northern and central armies eliminated by conquest of Honan Province, the enemy would then be in position to launch the really tough part of his drive for control of the rail-line between Hankow and Canton and the consolidation of his defenses in southern China.

This area is only lightly held by the enemy, as the map indicates, and the past drives for Changsha, key point along the road, prove the Chinese will fight like demons to keep this link from falling to the enemy.

But should the Nipponese plan succeed, the Japs could supply their defending forces when the big Allied push begins by a well protected overland route from their factories on the Japanese mainland to the fighting fronts.

These points along the southern China coast now being supplied by sea would be menaced by invasion of the Philippines, undoubtedly contemplated by the Allies in the near future.

The drive for the Philippines gained ground when Gen. MacArthur's jungle fighters expanded their holdings at Hollandia to protect the new air base against possible Jap counterattacks. Even as preparations for the airdromes were being completed, big Liberators were taking off from the strips to pound enemy bases on the tip of Dutch New Guinea which will have to be flattened before the steamroller can

move up within effective bomber range of the Philippines.

Adm. Nimitz's forces, getting ready to move west toward the same objective from the central Pacific, blasted enemy installations at Truk, Ponape and Nomoi in a three-day task force attack in their campaign to neutralize Jap bastion guarding the Philippines.

POLITICS

Gandhi Freed; Poles on Spot

The British Government has kept Mohandas A. Gandhi imprisoned in the Aga Khan's palace, south of Bombay, for 21 months. At the week's end, London announced his unconditional release. Gandhi, 74 has been suffering seriously from malaria. The India Office said he was freed "wholly on medical grounds," which translated meant it feared the result on the Indian people if the Nationalist leader died in captivity.

Poland: In London, Premier Mikolajczyk of the refugee Polish Government complained that his regime wasn't being let in on post war plans of the major Allies. Ernest Bevin, British Labor Minister said he had fullest confidence in the Mikolajczyk government's ability to direct the destinies of Poland until an election can be held there.

But despite Bevin, there were very strong indications that the British are now fed up with the government - in - exile's stubbornness in dealing with Russia. Both Raymond Daniell of the New York Times and Edward W. Beattie of

INSIDE GERMANY

by Godal



"Let's do our bit, Louise, for Fuehrer and Fatherland!"